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OP IMMED
DE NTE #2319 3451/53
O 111800Z DEC 75
FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TCHAK89//

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

TO BREMER/COVEY/RODMAN FOR THE SECRETARY

T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD VIA BLACK PATCH WH52457

TCHAK89

DECEMBER 11, 1975

VIA BLACK PATCH

State Dept. review completed

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT
FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM
SUBJECT: INFORMATION ITEMS

25X1

***** WNSR COMMENT *****

BEC FLK

NSA & DIA HAS
REVIEWED

PSN:045650

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TON:345/17:53Z

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ICELAND-UK COU WARE AN ICELANDIC PATROL BOAT FIRED ON A
BRITISH SUPPORT SHIP TODAY, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS.
THIS IS THE FIRST SUCH INCIDENT IN THE DISPUTE AND PROBABLY
WILL LEAD TO FURTHER ESCALATION OF THE COU WAR. ACCORDING
TO BRITISH OFFICIALS, CALLAGHAN IS NOT PREPARED TO MAKE A
NEW OFFER ON THE SIZE OF THE BRITISH CATCH WHEN HE MEETS WITH
AGUSTSSON. TALKS BROKE DOWN LAST MONTH WHEN ICELAND AND THE
UK COULD NOT AGREE ON THIS ISSUE. REYKJAVIK WANTS TO LIMIT
THE BRITISH TO 55,000 TONS, WHILE LONDON INSISTS ON 110,000
TONS. BOTH SIDES BELIEVE IT IS UP TO THE OTHER TO GET TALKS
UNDERWAY AGAIN. THE FIRING INCIDENT MAY PUSH THE RENEWAL OF
NEGOTIATIONS FARTHER INTO THE FUTURE, PARTICULARLY IF
AGUSTSSON USES THE EPISODE AS AN EXCUSE FOR VEHEMENT REMARKS
IN BRUSSELS.

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